

### In the Specification:

Please accept the following substitute specification, which is warranted to contain no "new matter":

*ACI*  
Cross-Reference to Prior Application and claim of Priority  
This application is a cont. of SN. 09/890,495, filed 09/10/2001, Pat 6,782,973,  
371 of PCT/DE 99/00956, 03/25/1999.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

1 The present invention relates to equipment for climbing a flexible or rigid weight-bearing element, such as rope.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

2 Devices for climbing on ropes with grips are known from DE 19726035 A1 and DE 19643455. The disadvantages of the technical solutions provided in these patent applications is that the requirements for greater functional safety and easy ascent and descent for the climbing person can only be attained with great technical effort.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

3 The task of the present invention is therefore to provide complete functional security and energy-saving climbing, especially for persons on the ropes or rigid structures.